

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, RP

SUBJECT: LABOR CODE AND NEW AGENCIES LAUNCHED WITH CONSIDERABLE
FANFARE

REF: MANILA 12356

SUMMARY: LABOR CODE IMPLEMENTED ON SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 1
FOLLOWING ELABORATE LAUNCHING CEREMONIES AT PRESIDENTIAL
PALACE. MARCOS ALSO ANNOUNCED APPOINTMENTS TO 3 NEW TRI-
PARTITE LABOR BODIES: NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION
(NLRC), OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT BOARD (OEDB), AND
NATIONAL SEAMEN BOARD (NSB). GETTING AS MUCH MILEAGE AS
IT CAN FROM LABOR CODE IMPLEMENTATION, GOVERNMENT IS STRESS-
ING THEME OF SERVICES TO WORKING MAN DESPITE ECONOMIC
STRESSES AND STRAINS FACING NATION. END SUMMARY

1. MUCH BALLYHOOED LABOR CODE, ORIGINALLY SIGNED BY
PRESIDENT MARCOS DURING MAY 1 LABOR DAY CELEBRATION,
WAS IMPLEMENTED ON SCHEDULE NOVEMBER 1 FOLLOWING ELABORATE
LAUNCHING CEREMONIES AT MALACANANG PRESIDENTIAL PALACE
OCTOBER 30. DURING COURSE OF TELEVISED ADDRESS TO
GATHERED THROG OF TRADE UNIONISTS AND EMPLOYERS' REP-
RESENTATIVES, MARCOS CALLED ON VARIOUS SECTORS OF SOCIETY
TO UNITE SO THAT NEW LABOR LAW COULD BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

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DESCRIBING UNEMPLOYMENT AS THE REAL EXPLOITER OF LABOR,

HE SAID THAT THE NEW CODE WILL MEET THIS PROBLEM FRONTALLY: IT WILL BE DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT-ORIENTED. BOTH LABOR AND MANAGEMENT SUBMITTED MANIFESTOS PLEDGING SUPPORT OF NEW CODE.

2. OF PARTICULAR INTEREST TO LABOR-MANAGEMENT AUDIENCE WAS MARCOS' ANNOUNCEMENT OF APPOINTMENTS TO NEWLY CREATED 7-MAN NLRC, 5-MAN OEDB, AND 7-MAN NSB. DURING INAUGURAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 4, LABOR SECRETARY BLAS OPLE (WHO CHAIRS OEDB AND NSB) SET INITIAL RESPECTIVE GOALS OF 3 NEW TRIPARTITE LABOR BODIES AS FOLLOWS: ORGANIZATION OF NUCLEUS OF LABOR ARBITERS, MAXIMIZING OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MIGRANT FILIPINO WORKERS, AND SETTING UP OF POLICY ON RECRUITMENT OF FILIPINO SEAMEN. APPOINTMENT OF NEW OFFICIALS IN "REVITALIZED" AND "RESTRUCTURED" DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL) HAVE ALSO BEEN ANNOUNCED. FURTHER DETAILS BY AIRGRAM.

COMMENT: GOVERNMENT GETTING AS MUCH MILEAGE AS IT POSSIBLY CAN OUT OF LAUNCHING OF NEW LABOR CODE, STRESSING THEME OF SERVICES TO WORKING MAN DESPITE CURRENT ECONOMIC STRESSES AND STRAINS FACING NATION. MALACANANG LABOR CODE FESTIVITIES ASTUTELY TIMED TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NATIONWIDE TV AUDIENCE WAITING TO SEE ALI-FOREMAN FIGHT. OBVIOUSLY HOPING FOR ONE-TWO PUNCH SHOW, TELEVISED MARCOS ADDRESS AND FESTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDED HEAVYWEIGHT MATCH PROGRAM WHICH STARTED 10 AM. OPLE HAS ALSO SUCCEEDED IN KEEPING THE DOL IN HEADLINES SINCE OCTOBER 30 WITH SERIES STORIES ON NEW CODE, NEW LABOR AGENCIES, AND DOL MODERNIZATION. STATUS OF TRADE UNION RESTRUCTURING (REFTEL) WILL BE SUBJECT OF SEPARATE MESSAGE.

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